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**SAT:** 55°F | 34 °F
Chance Drizzle

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Chance Rain/Sleet

Volume 138, Number 9

Friday, April 13, 2018

# 26-110 lounge open for rest of semester

## *UA Innovation Committee focused on the design of this new space*

**By Zoe Anderson**
*ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR*

The UA Innovation Committee has transformed the Compton Lounge (26-110) into a welcoming study space with free coffee and bananas, a napping area, beanbags, and Legos, with the goal of best meeting students' needs.

The committee, a group of about 20 undergraduate students, has the overarching objective of promoting innovation among students by fostering student connections. It began research on reinventing a space on campus last semester, and started considering 26-110 in late February.

"[26-110 is] the smack bang center of mass of campus for the daytime population," Innovation Committee Chair Malte Ahrens '19 said in an interview with *The Tech*. "It ticks all these boxes. It's got card reader access, and only for students. There are at least two windows, there are two gender-neutral bathrooms right nearby, there's water nearby."

Committee members visited companies, other colleges, and places on campus to examine the features of different spaces. It paid tremendous attention to detail in designing the space, according to William Wu '19, vice president of the Innovation Committee, in an interview with *The Tech*. For example, the food and Legos are closest to the door in order to be visible to students walking by, while the napping area is where the lighting is dimmest.

**26-110,** Page 2

MAHI SHAFIULLAH—THE TECH

**A student busies himself with the Lego set in 26-110,** the Compton Lounge, which has been recently refurnished by the UA Innovation Committee.

MAHI SHAFIULLAH—THE TECH

**Prefrosh Julia Park finds her way in front of the student center and building 7** Thursday during MIT's annual Campus Preview Weekend, which runs April 12–April 15 this year.

**FEATURE**

# MIT fights court battle over excessive retirement plan fees

## *Participants in plan may have lost tens of millions*

**By Whitney Zhang**
*FEATURES EDITOR*

On Aug. 9, 2016, six current and former MIT employees, represented by lawyers of Schlichter Bogard & Denton LLP, proposed a class action suit in the Massachusetts district court against MIT and various MIT affiliated organizations. In the suit, *Tracey et al v. Massachusetts Institute of Technology et al.*, the plaintiffs allege that MIT forced its clients to pay excessive retirement plan fees for the MIT Supplemental 401(k) Plan.

Simultaneously, 11 other suits were filed against other major universities, including Vanderbilt, Yale, Northwestern, and NYU. The trial in the NYU case begins April 16. Recently, in the MIT suit, the plaintiffs have filed a second amended complaint. A jury trial is set for May 6, 2019.

The plaintiffs' complaint argues that the plan has charged excessive fees and kept poorly performing funds, a breach of MIT's fiduciary duty under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA).

The plan's investment manager and recordkeeper is Fidelity. The investment manager picks funds and the recordkeeper tracks the plan's assets. The complaint also alleges that MIT's failure to monitor Fidelity may be a result of a conflict of interest between MIT and Fidelity.

MIT employees who are scheduled to work more than 20 hours per week as a salaried employee or 17.5 hours as an hourly employee, will have 1,000 or more hours worked in a calendar year, or have an appointment lasting three months or more are eligible for the plan. A participant's retirement in-

**Lawsuit,** Page 3

# Ex-student guilty of sexual assault

## *Donick will serve no prison time because victim declined to testify*

**By Sharon Chao**
*NEWS EDITOR*

Former MIT student Samson Donick pleaded guilty to three charges Tuesday in a sexual assault case that occurred Oct. 18, 2015, according to WBUR. He admitted that he broke into a woman's dorm room at Boston University while she was asleep and assaulted her. However, Donick will avoid prison time.

Donick was originally charged with aggravated rape, but because the victim declined to testify, a plea bargain was agreed upon instead. According to CBS Boston, prosecutors told the judge that the victim's testimony "would not be in her emotional best interests."

Judge Janet Sanders indicated that the plea deal was against her better judgment and that the case "cries out for jail time," according to CBS Boston.

Donick pleaded guilty to indecent assault and battery on a person over 14, assault and battery, and breaking and entering with intent to commit a misdemeanor.

Sanders sentenced him to five years of probation with GPS monitoring, with the possibility of reduction to three years with good behavior. She also imposed 1,000 hours of community service and sex offender treatment. Though Donick will not have to register as a sex offender in Massachusetts, he will probably have to in California, where he currently lives, according to the Boston Globe.

Police said two female BU students signed Donick — then an MIT student who played guard for the basketball team — and three other men into a BU dorm around 2 a.m. the night of the incident, according to Boston Magazine. Donick and another man went to find someone the latter knew and entered 10 dorms rooms across four floors for the next half hour.

Donick entered the victim's room, and she awoke to him sexu-

**Donick,** Page 3

## IN SHORT

**The SafeRide Shuttle program** service will be extended until 3:30 a.m. for Campus Preview Weekend for two fixed-route Saferide shuttles — the Boston East and Cambridge West/Brookline routes. The OnDemand shuttles will continue to operate from 11 p.m.–3:30 a.m. Visit the following website to learn more: web.mit.edu/shuttles

**The MIT Day of Action** is April 17 from 10 a.m.–8 p.m. in the Stata Center. Members of the MIT and broader local community will devote the day to discuss current political, economic, environmental, and social challenges. Visit the following website for more information: dayofaction.mit.edu

**A blood drive will be held in La Sala de Puerto Rico** on the second floor of the student center April 18–23, 25 from 1 p.m.–6 p.m. and April 24 from 8 a.m.–1 p.m. Visit the following website for more details and to make an appointment: http://web.mit.edu/blood-drive/www/

**Summer housing applications** are due April 23.

**The Tech is looking** for science and features writers and photographers. Write to *join@tech.mit.edu* to get started.

**Send news and tips to *news@tech.mit.edu*.**

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"You should take at least one shower."
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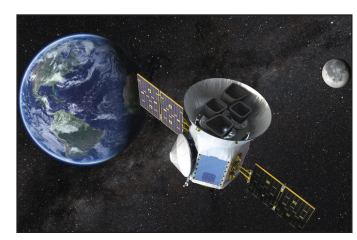

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# Pritchett Café experiences more student traffic due to changed hours

## *Café also offers chef boxes and cooking demonstrations*

**By Kaitlyn Hennacy**

Pritchett Café, operated by the food service company Rebecca's Café, opened on the second floor of Walker Memorial at the beginning of February. Due to an initial lack of business, it has since adjusted hours of operation, changed its décor, and implemented new programs to appeal to more students.

Pritchett Café is now open from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m., Monday through Friday. This is a change from its original 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. hours. The adjustment was made April 2, less than two months after the café opened.

Low student traffic after 11:30 p.m. led to the change, according to Gustavo Burkett, Division of Student Life senior associate dean for diversity and community involvement, in an interview with *The Tech*.

The original intention of the café was to provide late-dining options on the east side of campus, Burkett said. This would make food more accessible to students, as there were previously no retail dining locations on the east side open past 6 p.m.

"There are limited food options for people who don't live in dining dorms because of how inflexible dining plans are," Jenny Jin '18 said in an interview with *The Tech*. "I've been really trying to tell people about [Pritchett Café] and advocate for it because I think that it's a healthy and convenient option that a lot of people don't know about."

If continued into the fall, the café may begin accepting dining dollars as part of the meal plan, Matthew Bauer, DSL director of communications, said in an interview with *The Tech*.

An email circulated that MIT may have refused to give the café a grand opening in an effort to get the café to close down and not take away business from other vendors. However, Burkett denies this and says that the vendors work together.

The opening of Pritchett Café was communicated through posters and email, according to Burkett. MIT Dining is working to improve awareness of the new café. Already, the DSL has updated the décor of the space, turning it into a "brighter, more inviting, friendly space," Burkett said. The DSL also invited singer/songwriter Paola Cisneros to perform there, which attracted a crowd of students.

Raising awareness is one of the key challenges, Burkett said. "Once people go and see the space, they really like it and they start using it."

"It's been a lot of support from MIT. Since the spring break, there's been a lot more customer flow due to the change in hours," Jeff Newton, an employee of Rebecca's Café, said in an interview with *The Tech*.

Newton said that he has seen traffic increase from around ten people a day at the café's start to an average of forty now. "It's not the same people every day. Word is getting out."

Vice President and Dean for Student Life Suzy Nelson wrote in an emailed statement to *The Tech*, "I'm really excited that this new spot on the east side—which was a recommendation of the 2016 Dining Data Review Working Group and the 2017 Food and Dining Survey—is finding its niche with students and the MIT community."

Pritchett Café is also undertaking some new initiatives. It recently began offering "chef boxes," which are meal kits that provide ingredients and instructions for students to cook at home. "The chef's boxes were developed in a partnership between DSL and Rebecca's, and are intended to help students who cook for themselves make quick, nutritious meals affordably," Mark Hayes, director of campus dining, wrote in an email to *The Tech*.

The café also provides cooking demonstrations from chef Tony Cascino. "He is very college student-friendly. He understands the limitations and he works around them," Burkett said.

According to Bauer, the café serves as an example of what MIT hopes to do more of in the future, with regards to healthy food options and educating students about cooking affordably.

# DSL gives $1,000 to fund 26-110 space

**26-110,** from Page 1

The space was only supposed to be open for one week as an experiment. However, because of its success in meeting the needs of students, Vice President and Dean of the Division for Student Life Suzy Nelson gave the committee $1,000 out of her discretionary fund to support the space for the rest of the semester, according to Ahrens.

"The Division of Student Life was happy to provide some financial support for the student space pilot underway in the Compton Lounge," Nelson wrote in an email sent to *The Tech*.

"I believe that the UA Committee on Innovation has not yet released its report and that their meeting with the Committee on Student Life — which is working on its own report about student spaces — is happening soon," Nelson explained. Nelson anticipates that the lounge will be a part of both reports.

Wu said that he really wants students to view the space as an example of how they can collaboratively make a change that positively impacts the community. "I feel like it's easy when you're caught in psets, in the daily grind of things, to forget that MIT is a community and a place that is living and can be improved, and that it's flexible," Wu said.

MAHI SHAFIULLAH—THE TECH

**Students work in 26-110**, the Compton Lounge, refurnished recently by the UA Innovation Committee.

# NEET to offer two new threads in fall

## *NEET uses project-based, interdisciplinary learning approach*

**By Matthew Baldwin**

As New Engineering Education Transformation (NEET) moves into its second year, it will offer four threads for Fall 2018 — Advanced Materials Machines, Autonomous Machines, Living Machines, and Low Carbon Energy Systems. This will be the pilot year for Advanced Material Machines and Low Carbon Energy Systems, which are being introduced after the success of NEET's first year.

In an interview with *The Tech,* Dr. Amitava "Babi" Mitra, executive director of NEET, explained that NEET's objective is to meet the demands of students who have expressed interest in a project-centric program that spans multiple departments and offers experiences outside of the classroom.

Students part of NEET take the classes required for their major, as well as elective-style seminars specific to NEET taught by MIT professors.

"NEET aims to educate young engineers to build the new machines and systems that will address societal needs, by preparing them to work as makers and discoverers. It also provides an opportunity to learn and practice communication, interpersonal skills, leadership," Mitra said.

NEET is co-led by aeronautics and astronautics professor Ed Crawley and Associate Dean of Engineering Anette "Peko" Hosoi.

Allison Lenhard '20 is in the Autonomous Machines thread and credits it for giving her variation in her coursework. "NEET has helped me dive into a more interdisciplinary course load and tailor my MIT curriculum to suit my own career goals," Lenhard said in an interview with *The Tech*.

She recommends any freshman to explore what NEET can offer: "I'd encourage anyone who sees a NEET thread that piques their interest to strongly consider applying, because it will definitely enhance their time at MIT," Lenhard said.

Students are also given the flexibility to change their major at the end of their sophomore year if the NEET thread they are in is not for them."[NEET] is giving you more options; it is not taking away from what you want to do," Mitra said.

This fall, NEET will allow sophomores to take project classes immediately, as opposed to waiting a semester.

The early deadline to apply to NEET has been extended to April 18. The regular deadline is May 13. Priority will be given to early applicants. Students can visit neet.mit.edu for more information.

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# 401(k) court cases continue for MIT, other universities

**Lawsuit,** from Page 1

come depends on employee contributions, employer matching — MIT matches 100 percent — and investment options, subtracting fees and expenses.

As of December 2014, the plan had 18,268 participants and $3.6 billion in net assets, putting it in the top one percent of all defined contribution plans based on total plan assets.

Under ERISA, employers have fiduciary responsibility to participants and to the plan. This responsibility includes properly monitoring investments and removing imprudent ones, as established by *Tibble v. Edison*, a landmark 9–0 Supreme Court case also argued by lawyers from Schlichter Bogard & Denton LLP.

In an interview with *The Tech*, Jerome Schlichter, one of the lawyers who is representing the plaintiffs in this case, explained that the firm had developed a niche in this area, starting from a decade ago. He said that these cases were particularly important because since the employer's money is not at stake, the "employer has no direct financial incentive," and thus often becomes negligent. He also stated that the Department of Labor has never brought a case regarding retirement fees.

Schlichter said his firm has successfully represented 401(k) plan employee savers in many cases, including *Abbott v. Lockheed Martin*, *Nolte v. Cigna*, *Beasley v. International Paper*, and *Spano v. Boeing*.

Schlichter explained that MIT from 2010–2015 had over 300 funds in the plan under its agreement that every Fidelity fund that is available would automatically be included. Not only was this system confusing, it was a breach of the "elementary principle" that the employer should be analyzing and picking funds.

MIT reviewed and reduced its number of funds in June 2015. The complaint notes that the funds prior to the review charged participants fees 13 percent to 15,000 percent more than the funds post-review. According to the Department of Labor, a one percent difference of fees over a 35-year career makes a difference of 28 percent in savings at retirement.

Importantly, Schlichter noted that while MIT reduced its number of funds in 2015, some of the funds in the plan are still "imprudent" and "poorly performing." Schlichter argued that MIT should be able to bargain with its jumbo plan to obtain lower cost share classes of funds and lower fees.

Furthermore, since 1998, MIT has retained Fidelity as its investment provider and recordkeeper and has severely limited its search scope by only considering recordkeepers that are either already doing business with MIT or are local companies. In addition, Schlichter said MIT "failed to conduct a request for proposal (RFP) every three years, which is what prudent fiduciaries do when looking out for employees and retirees' interests." The complaint says that as a result, "the Plan, and the Plaintiffs and other Class members, lost tens of millions of dollars in their retirement savings."

The first complaint argues that MIT made these choices because it had a conflict of interest with choosing a recordkeeper. The second amended complaint points out that since Fidelity was chosen as MIT's recordkeeper, the Fidelity Foundation has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to MIT, and since 2001, the Fidelity Non-Profit Management Foundation has donated over $18 million to MIT, among other relatively smaller donations.

Furthermore, since 2007, Abigail Johnson, CEO of Fidelity, has been a member of the MIT Corporation, the governing body of MIT. Johnson did not respond to *The Tech*'s request for comment.

On Oct. 4, 2017, U.S. District Judge Nathaniel Gordon agreed with most of U.S. Magistrate Judge Marianne Bowler's recommendation regarding complaint. The judges both believed that it was reasonable to allege that MIT had breached its fiduciary duty, but not that this resulted from MIT's relationship with Fidelity. Bowler found that the "plaintiffs' theory was speculative" and the plaintiffs did not "allege that Ms. Johnson was involved with the Plan ... and she was not on the Board [MIT Corporation] when Fidelity was decided as the investment provider."

The second amended complaint added individuals on the Plan Oversight Committee to the suit and included both "additional details about the relationship between MIT and Fidelity" and additional details relating to the Breach of Duty of Prudence.

*The Tech* contacted defendants Executive Vice President and Treasurer Israel Ruiz and Vice President for Human Resources Lorainne Goffe for comment, and was emailed a statement from the MIT News Office. The statement emphasized that MIT offers "a comprehensive and competitive suite of retirement benefits to faculty and staff" and that plan fiduciaries "have volunteered their valuable time to serve the MIT community by overseeing the 401(k) plan as plan fiduciaries." MIT is "vigorously defending against the claims asserted in this lawsuit."

Schlichter noted that the case is still in "discovery" and that his team is continuing to get documents from MIT and "work through the documents that have been produced." Specifically, they are looking into the practices of fiduciaries, including "what they did to run the plan" and "why they had so many investment options." They are also working to refine their estimate of how much the excessive fees cost MIT employees.

The plaintiffs have requested that the court order the defendants to compensate for losses, "remove the fiduciaries who have breached their fiduciary duties," "reform the Plan to only include prudent investments," and "reform the Plan to obtain bids from recordkeeping and to pay only recordkeeping expenses."

To close, Schlichter said, "We are fighting for the MIT employees and retirees ... for a plan that enables them to build their retirement assets for the future. ... The employees and retirees of MIT deserve to build their retirement assets the same way the employees of corporations do."

# VPR educates athletes about sexual assault and prevention

**Donick,** from Page 1

ally assaulting her. On the stand Tuesday, Donick described what took place. "I entered the room. I touched her ... and when she asked me to stop, I left," Donick said, according to the Boston Herald.

The victim also addressed Donick directly in the courtroom Tuesday, saying, "I ask that you make your future untainted. I ask that you make a positive impact in every life you touch because the many negative impacts you made in mine and my families' are enough for a lifetime," according to WBUR.

On campus, Violence Prevention and Response has partnered with the Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation and the Title IX Office since 2012. "Examples of their partnerships on education and prevention include trainings and workshops for individual athletes and teams focused on the topics of alcohol, sexual consent, and bystander intervention," Kelley Adams, assistant dean and VPR director, wrote in an email sent to *The Tech*.

Since the NCAA adopted a new policy on sexual violence prevention education requirements in August 2017, all MIT student-athletes and athletic staff have completed some form of sexual assault education and prevention training, according to Adams.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# President Reif responds to editorial on MIT's moralizing

**By L. Rafael Reif**

*This is a response to last week's editorial, "The hypocrisy in MIT's moralizing."*

Your editorial of April 5th points to serious, difficult questions we must ask when developing relationships with outside parties, including what qualifies or disqualifies a potential collaborator, and how we can gauge whether our choices serve the long-term best interests of MIT.

With all our institutional engagements with foreign governments, MIT's senior leaders ask just such questions, and we consult with faculty leaders. We followed this same approach when we learned that the Saudi Crown Prince was interested in visiting our campus.

Let me offer some context for how we think about these issues.

As a starting point, we strongly favor a strategy of engaging with the world, and of opening the doors to collaboration. However, favoring engagement sometimes requires wrestling with complex choices, as when we are invited to work on subjects of important shared interest by parties whose values and actions in other areas we reject. In each case, and repeatedly over time, we make our best assessment and form a judgment: By engaging, do we see a significant opportunity to do some good or drive some progress, in areas that matter to our faculty and students?

If yes, we seek to work out a carefully focused relationship. In the Saudi case, over time this path has led to Saudi Aramco's sustained support for MITEI's renewable energy research, and to the Ibn Khaldun fellowship, which has already brought 27 Saudi women PhDs to our campus and which the signing at the recent forum extended for a decade.

We could instead choose a strategy of refusing to engage. In most instances, however, it appears to us that our *not* engaging neither creates nor encourages significant positive change. I recognize that, in each case, this is a matter of judgment. These decisions are rarely clear cut. Members of our community may disagree, in general or in certain cases, or may conclude that particular relationships are unacceptable to them. I certainly understand such positions.

Your editorial also suggested that when I write to the community on matters of public policy, I have chosen subjects that were easy to speak up on. Since they have not felt that way to me, I would like to briefly describe why I have taken such public stands.

MIT is an American institution with a mission of national service and a long record of constructive partnership with the US government. Therefore, federal policy changes that threaten our mission or members of our community come as a shock. In my judgment, they require an urgent institutional response, and part of marshalling that response is making sure that our community understands the threat and what we plan to do about it. For a research-intensive university that receives 67% of its campus research funding from the federal government, publicly criticizing federal policy carries real risks. In each case – the travel ban, the withdrawal from the global climate accord, DACA, the changes to the tax code that threatened our graduate students and our endowment – my goal was not to scold, nor to score moral points, but to take a stand in defense of our community and its mission. But I'm prepared to hear that I did not get the balance right.

Making a better world is a grand aspiration. I believe we should aim that high – and that living up to that mission means seizing opportunities to do the most good we can. Yet defining what that means in practice clearly leaves room for serious discussion and a wide range of views. I'm grateful to hear your perspective, and I appreciate the opportunity to explain our approach.

*L. Rafael Reif is the 17th president of MIT.*

GUEST COLUMN

# Where is the humor in hunger?

## *When an April Fool's joke goes too far*

**By Miranda McClellan**

On April Fool's Day, an email from the Class of 2018 Class Council mocked the results of the recent report on campus food security. The email read: "The recently published food insecurity report identified a dietary need in a risk group common to MIT: summer interns at large technology corporations... these students, who do not wake up early enough to make 10 a.m. breakfast, are getting by on just two free meals a day — lunch and dinner.

As such, Senior Class Council, in conjunction with the UA, will be funding a travel grant fund for this risk group by redirecting the funds from the Senior Ball food budget. ... this money will allow us to implement a similar program in Silicon Valley so any student can get to their favorite Sheryl Sandberg-approved $$$$ restaurant..."

According to the mentioned report by the Food Insecurity Solutions Working Group, up to 13% of MIT undergraduates struggle with food insecurity in addition to the stress of coursework and research common to the MIT experience. The 2018 Class Council's email displayed a substantial disregard for these students. This lack of empathy is especially concerning because it was broadcasted over a class-wide email from the group of people that have been tasked with representing the interests of their peers. Even though I do not suffer from hunger, I was shocked by the council's lack of regard for the gravity of food insecurity and the fact that the council was comfortable publicly mocking the issue of campus hunger over a class-wide email. In the same way that sexist and racist jokes are not funny, the ongoing campus hunger issue is a serious matter that is never appropriate to joke about. There are many topics that could have been appropriate for an April Fools prank, but the council chose instead to mock their peers who can't eat. Why not joke about our lovely spring weather, seniors who have to take final exams, or confusion over filing taxes instead? The 2018 Class Council showed a fundamental lack of understanding of the challenges that their peers face, especially in light of recent rises in tuition, housing, and dining plan costs.

Further, the 2018 Class Council's email encourages dangerous myths about poor people that are common in US culture. The email implies that students struggling with food insecurity are too unmotivated to wake up, that they deliberately attempt to game the system to get expensive food for free, and that they are lying about their experience of food insecurity when they actually receive abundant free meals. The myths portrayed in the email parallel those that permeate broader American culture: poor people are often depicted as lazily sitting back to collect government checks, making poor choices or being too picky with opportunities, and lying about their lived experiences to gain food stamps for luxury.

The insensitive nature of the joke is amplified by the fact that this is a very expensive time of year for seniors: families must pay to travel to graduation and book hotels, and students must pay additional costs to attend popular events, with Senior Ball tickets originally advertised at $50 each and Senior Week events costing up to $120. Budgeting for senior expenses is stressful enough for low-income students without ill humor at their expense. The 2018 Class Council's email further alienates low-income students during what should be a time of celebration for our class. Bad jokes like this are part of a structure of power that make low-income students feel unwelcome or burdensome, when in reality, they are our PSet buddies, our hallmates, and our dear friends who should be supported through difficulties like hunger.

The myths in broader culture and the ones alluded to in the email are false and pave over the difficulties that many low income students face on campus. The invocation of these stereotypes by the 2018 Class Council are harmful to 35% of undergraduates who qualify for full tuition waivers by family income level and other low-income students who worked diligently to thrive in a difficult environment despite coming from disadvantaged backgrounds. The stereotypes perpetrated by the email ignore the fact that people can do all things "right" — working multiple jobs during the semester, cooking efficiently, and budgeting carefully — and still require assistance to sustain oneself on campus. The 2018 Class Council's email belittles the struggle of low-income students, contributing to the sense of shame students may feel when asking for assistance at a wealthy institution.The email actively sets back the efforts of administrators and student leaders who work to destigmatize campus hunger and to encourage students to participate in programs like SwipeShare.

The students in need are not trying to eat lavishly, but rather go to sleep without hunger or concern over finding the money to pay for the next meal in the wake of Boston's high cost of living, MIT's rising tuition, the lack of nearby affordable groceries, and the numerous other financial issues students may face, such as needing to remit money earned to family elsewhere. These large social issues cannot be solved simply by asking students to wake up earlier or to land cushy tech jobs. Low-income MIT students — and frankly poor people everywhere — who require financial assistance to survive should not be stigmatized as lazy or freeloaders as the email suggests. Rather, their issues deserve the intentional thought and empathy from the MIT community to help solve the issue of food insecurity.

In recent years, MIT administrators and student organizations like CASE have worked to support students work through food insecurity and other adjustment issues that accompany the experience of being low-income at an elite higher learning institution. The 2018 Class Council's insensitive email served as a timely reminder that many members of the MIT community must still work to change problematic attitudes and build empathy, such that they can support the MIT community in its entirety. I hope that the 2018 Class Council and other MIT student leaders will challenge themselves to confront stereotypes and think more seriously about using someone else's suffering as the target of jokes in the future.

## OPINION POLICY

**Editorials** are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Chairman Karleigh Moore, Editor in Chief Emma Bingham, Executive Editor Patrick Wahl, Contributing Editor Vivian Zhong, and Opinion Editors Steven Truong and Fiona Chen.

**Dissents** are the signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

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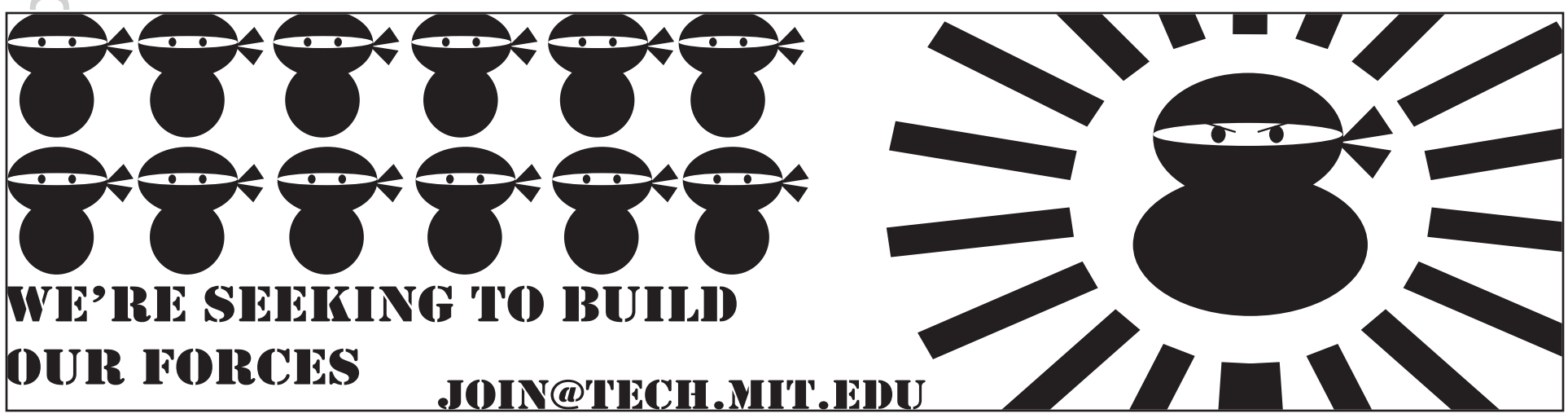


SCIENCE SCIENCE SCIENCE

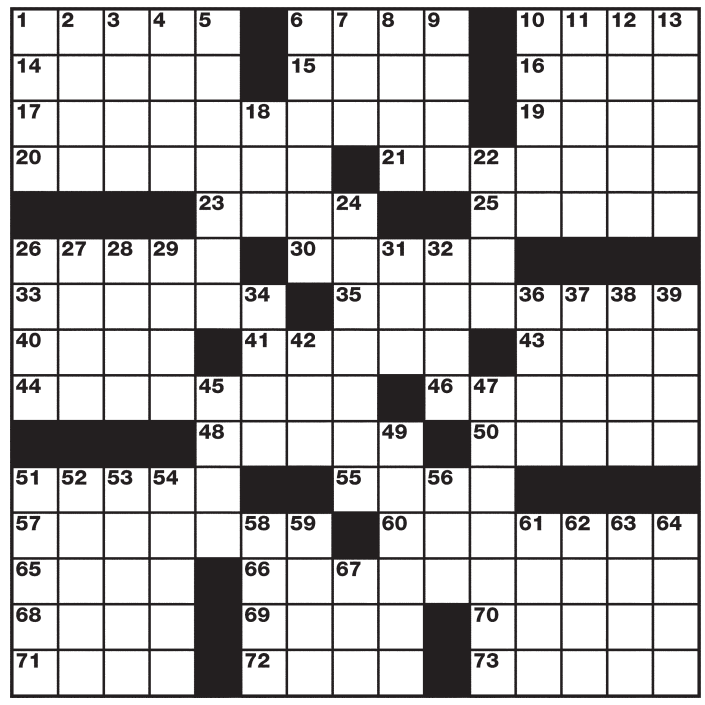
FUNFUNFUNF

# Animal House by Fred Piscop

Solution, page 15

ACROSS
1 Parking sticker
6 Miniseries episode
10 Weathervane turner
14 Wipe clean
15 Tweeter, for one
16 Hold 'em starter
17 Lions at the L.A. or Central Park zoo
19 A/C measures
20 Uncomplicated, as a process
21 Snowmass machine
23 Daily Bruin publisher
25 Muscular
26 More sensible
30 Send to cloud nine
33 Falls away slowly
35 Young misbehaving wolves
40 The Last Jedi general
41 Dwarf planet since 2006
43 Exotic smoothie ingredient
44 Oxen pulling plows
46 First-aid device
48 Periphery
50 Nostalgic number
51 DHL alternative
55 Poetic contraction
57 With a watery habitat
60 Mostly Ghostly author
65 Makes haste
66 Guppies in your fishtank
68 __ qua non
69 Accepting bookings
70 An official New Delhi language
71 Apple for joggers
72 St. __ (spring-break locale)
73 Scrabble one-pointers

DOWN
1 See 31 Down
2 Shillelagh land
3 Give in, so to speak
4 Just the way it sits
5 Professor's delivery
6 Plum, for instance
7 "Just __ suspected!"
8 Sommelier offerings
9 Taxing trip
10 Triangular outer-wall section
11 Let loose
12 Miscellaneous things
13 Quick to complain
18 Delt neighbor
22 "Yeah, that'll happen"
24 Egg white
26 Personal identity
27 Bailiwick
28 Dark couleur
29 Cheese akin to Gouda
31 With 1 Down, retro style
32 Town near Santa Fe
34 Made haste
36 Become wearisome
37 DNA, e.g.
38 "Please?"
39 Paper + string toy
42 Fall behind
45 Biblical passage
47 Stuttgart automaker
49 Unrattled
51 Language of Iran
52 Fit out
53 It may be said with a shrug
54 Let up



56 Bracket shapes
58 Breakfast specialist
59 Make do
61 "With __ ring . . ."
62 Plasma particles
63 Network junction
64 Rooters for Bulldogs
67 Intersected

# Sixers

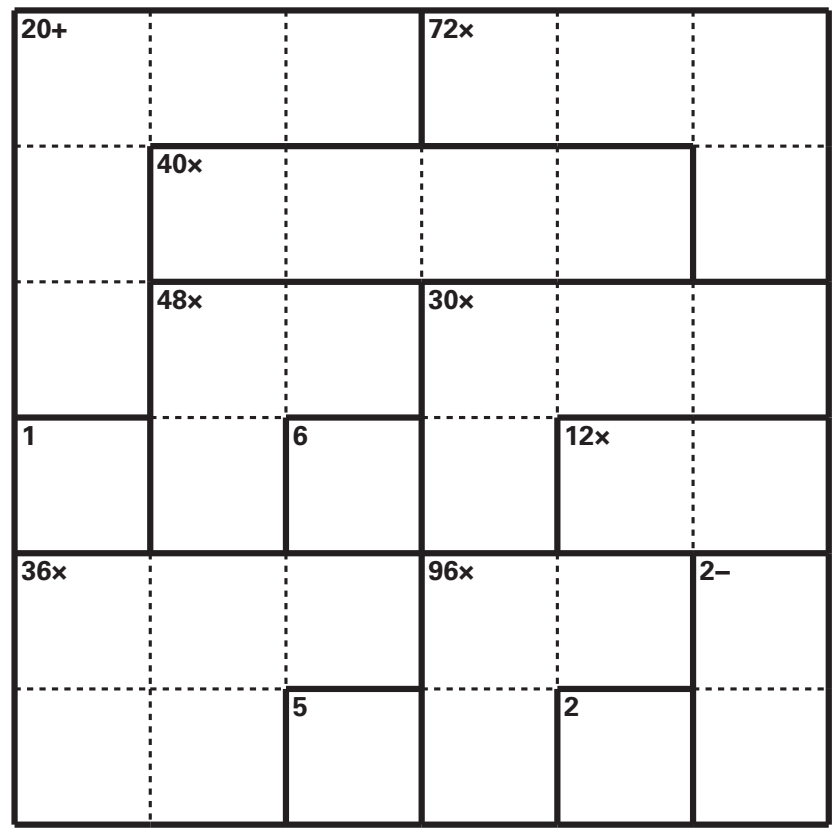
Solution, page 15

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | | 2 | | 5 | 9 | |
| | | | | | | 8 | | 2 |
| 4 | | | | 8 | | | 7 | |
| | | | 2 | 4 | | | | 6 |
| 2 | | 7 | 1 | | 5 | 4 | | 8 |
| 6 | | | | 7 | 3 | | | |
| | 7 | | | 3 | | | | 5 |
| 9 | | 3 | | | | | | |
| | 4 | 8 | | 9 | | 3 | | |

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

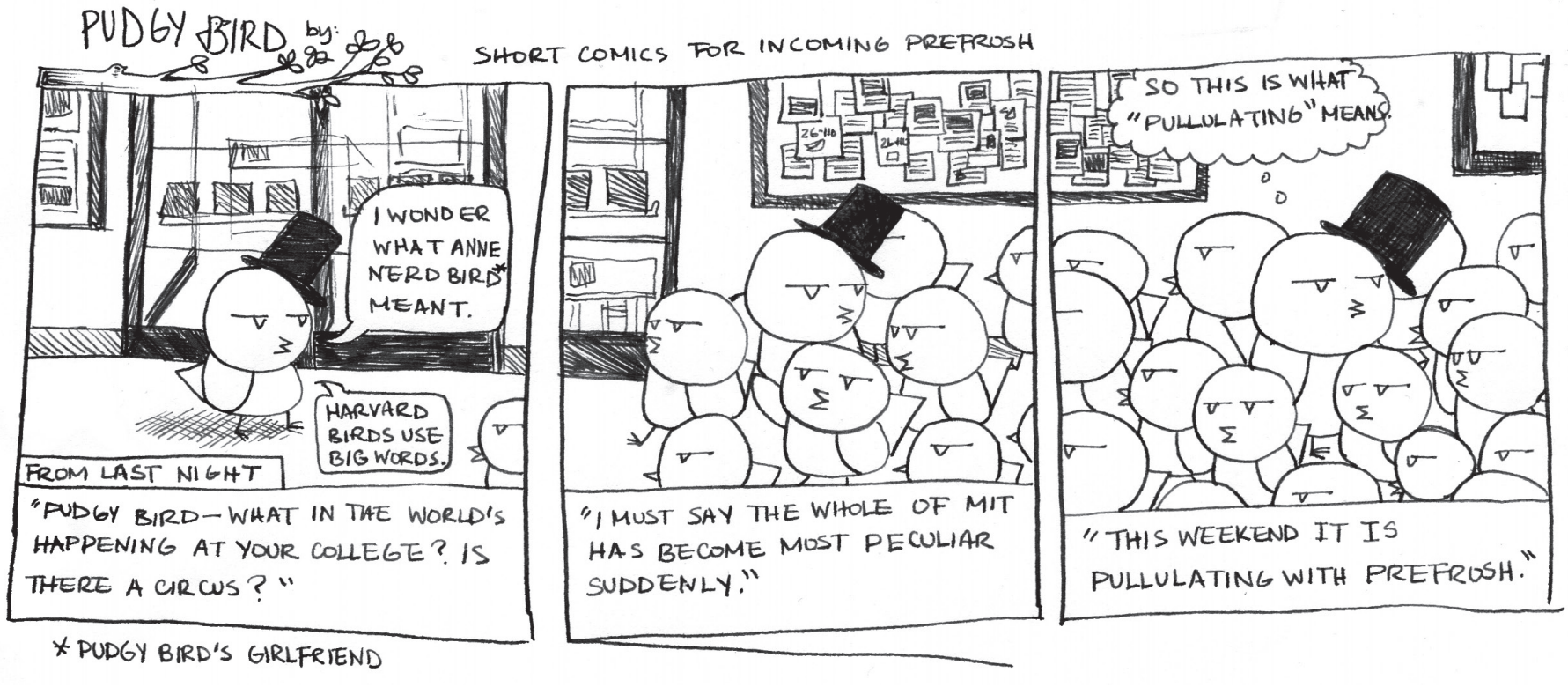
# Playoffs

Solution, page 15




Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

# Pullulating by Ivy Li




FUN FUN FUN

ARTS ARTS ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW

# Watch this wild, heartfelt goose chase to cockblock teenagers

## *Blockers* comically explores sex in liberal politics and the art of parenting

★★★☆☆

***Blockers***

**Directed by Kay Cannon**

**Screenplay by Brian Kehoe, Jim Kehoe**

**Starring Leslie Mann, Ike Barinholtz, John Cena, Kathryn Newton, Geraldine Viswanathan, Gideon Adlon**

**Rated R**

**Now Playing**

**By Ivy Li**
*ARTS EDITOR*

I'll be honest: physics psets were stressing me out last week and I needed a film to trash in a review. I read the premise: three parents go to great lengths to stop their three daughters from having sex on prom night. I thought the plot was ridiculous, the hijinks would be absurd, and the characters would be reduced to caricatures. I'm happy to admit I was wrong: the audience and I were laughing hard at the ridiculous scenes, and at the end, I even felt a bit emotional with the characters. Yes, the plot is ridiculous, the hijinks are absurd, but we witness an unexpected humanity in these parents and their children. I enjoyed the *hell* out of *Blockers*, so much so that I was tempted to give it four stars before rethinking it.

What could otherwise be a raunchy teen comedy becomes a feel-good film about parenting and the process of watching your children become adults. Yes, parents: young adults can have sex, try drugs, or move to college, or all three. We first meet childhood friends Julie (Kathryn Newton), Kayla (Geraldine Viswanathan), and Sam (Gideon Adlon) as children, but the real stars of the film are their three parents: Julie's mother Lisa (Leslie Mann); Kayla's father Mitchell (John Cena); and Sam's biological father Hunter (Ike Barinholtz), who arguably is the most sympathetic character in the film. These parents are who you root for. Lisa pretends she is fine; she's not. Hunter pretends to be an asshole; he's not. And the buff, military-bred Mitchell gets emotional and cries over everything.

In the first few minutes, these three watch their daughters leave to elementary school. Cut to the present, they now must watch them become adults. The now-high-school seniors Julie, Kayla, and Sam create a sex pact to lose their virginity on prom night. Their parents get wind of their plan and attempt to stop them. They are *not* ready for their children to become adults. Here, the plot kicks in, bringing in recurring gags and outlandish situations.

The three parents are played perfectly by Mann, Barinholtz, and Cena (who is not just a meme) with great comedic timing and energy. The side characters are also quite charming with their comedic gags (the sexually open parents comes to mind). The film's humor disguises the film's surprisingly heartfelt morality. *Blockers* bounces effortlessly across themes of parenting, infidelity, sexuality, adulthood, and the double standard for both women and men, although due to the nature of its comedy, the film does not explore these themes in any depth.

We have scenes of physical humor, from Lisa, Mitchell, and Hunter fighting in the car to sex games involving blindfolds to John Cena's character butt-chugging to defend his daughter's virginity. In contrast, we also have a notable scene when Hunter reveals to the other two parents that he cheated on and divorced his wife after experiencing domestic abuse from her. As per the running gag with Hunter, Mitchell and Lisa both ignore this in favor of solving their situation (the three stranded themselves by crashing their car into a hill). It makes us pity Hunter's character, but at the same time, I question why this reveal was timed so inconveniently.

COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

**Leslie Mann, Ike Barinholtz, and John Cena** play helicopter parents in *Blockers*.

Lisa and Mitchell have their appropriate bonding moments over each of their daughters, but Hunter receives his due moment in the end when he meets with his daughter Sam (who resents Hunter for hurting her mother) and gives a heartfelt apology to her for leaving. In return, Sam reveals to him that she's lesbian, and after Sam reveals she came out to him first, before telling her mother, Hunter starts crying. The ending is a happy one: Lisa, Mitchell, and Hunter (who is finally welcomed) bond over the experience and drink together at a bar. In a later scene, the three parents watch their daughters head off to UCLA, where Julie was accepted. It's clear where the film's message lies: children will grow up, and their parents must let them go.

COMEDY REVIEW

# An eternal smile

## Vanessa Bayer comes to MIT for an evening of comedy

**By Johnson Huynh**
*ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR*

On April 8, we had the pleasure of having SNL alum, Vanessa Bayer, take the stage in Kresge auditorium. Due to other commitments, John Mulaney wasn't able to come to campus. However, we were very lucky to have SNL, old and new, come to share their most embarrassing stories to us.

Just to tell you how hyped people were for this event, there was already a line well before the 8 p.m. showtime. By the time that my friends and I arrived, all the front seats had already been taken. In fact, all of the seats in the first five rows were packed with people eager to see these comedians. I knew that it was going to be a good time.

Opening the night for us was SNL member Chris Redd. The audience erupted into cheers as Redd strided onto stage with a swagger in his step. He took us on a wild adventure through his childhood and all the mishappenings that take place when you don't know any better. Very much into comedy with a physical punchline, Redd regaled us with how he didn't know that his uncle was a crackhead.

We chuckled a little bit. He launched into the ever-classic tale of standing up to the playground bully. My cheeks started to hurt from smiling. Then, there was a little bit of heckling in the audience. Redd did what any self-respecting adult with compassion would do. He played off of that to tailor a joke that's extremely relatable. "Are you his secretary?!" he yelled from the stage. At this point, all of us were mere millimeters from falling out of our seats. My lungs were working overtime to support how much air I was losing from laughter.

Of course, there were still two more comedians to grace the stage. We were in for a ride. Passing the microphone over to the next performer, Mikey Day, Redd exited with the same amount of confidence he had as he entered. Day's approach to comedy was a little more unorthodox, "I don't usually do stand-up." Nevertheless, he did have very interesting stories to tell us about the wonders of modern technology.

He projected all of the prank texts that he and his sister had ever sent to his dad over the years. Like a "Best of" compilation on YouTube, he showed the audience the time he tortured his father with emojis. When he finished this bit, he proceeded to tell us about all the sketch ideas he had that never saw the light of day. They were, undoubtedly, strange. The most memorable of them was the bizarity of modern-day shooter games. Imagining how people would react to a homicidal maniac in real life, Day stoically crouched and hopped continuously.

Day also noted the uncanny ability of Marvel to turn literally any concept idea into a blockbuster. And thus, he spoofed Guardians of the Galaxy several times over. Each movie title was a ridiculous amalgamation of words chosen at random from the dictionary. My friend and I had to look at each other, revelling in how absurdly hilarious this all was.

With that, Day left the stage. Moments later, the announcer came on stage to announce the headliner. This was it. It was time. My friend and I leaned forwards in anticipation only to unleash a banshee scream when Vanessa Bayer walked on.

Having seen her on SNL multiple times, I was ready to let my sides hurt from laughter. In an attempt to connect with the audience, Bayer proudly announced that she would have been Course 7. "How exclusive!" she added. A light chuckle passed through the room. She commented on the insanity that is the college experience. She started off with biology, only to become a communities major, which she describes as studying bullshit. I recognized the style humor that I had come to love from her. There was a certain kind of endearing awkwardness radiating from her. Some sample jokes from her: "It's interesting how we can name our kids 'Christian' but not 'Jew.'" She even told us about the time that she was encouraged to try out for a part because she seemed just the right kind of ugly. Sitting in the waiting room, she noticed all the women around her. "I kinda realized then, that we were all there because someone thought that we weren't pretty," she mused.

In a throwback to one of her more famous roles on SNL's satire part of the show, Bayer described what it'd be like to actually live in the world of *Friends*. When she pulled off an impeccable Rachel impression on air, Bayer caught the attention of the original actress, Jennifer Aniston. Aniston joined her fictional counterpart on the show in a very memorable *Weekend Update*. Bayer laid out, in excruciating detail, how painful a relationship with Ross must be. Noting that further episodes will force Ross and Rachel back together again, she commented on the amount of lives that have to be trampled to have these two happy.

This was truly an unforgettable night. Although John Mulaney never came to our campus, it felt like the SNL people have really stepped up to make us laughter. Commendations have to be said of the De Florez Fund for Humor, which have funded the event. Giving us the much needed break that we needed at this time in the semester, the performers really have made the end of the semester a little more attainable.

**Got a lot on your mind?**

Share some thoughts with us!
Write for Campus Life. *join@tech.mit.edu*

ARTS ARTS ARTS

SAKATA
AFRIQUE
AfroShake
April 18 | Kresge Little | 7:00–8:30PM
Visit sakata.mit.edu For Tickets: $5

ADVICE

# Prefrosh? Read this!

## Auntie Matter on using CPW wisely

**By Auntie Matter**

*Auntie Matter is* The Tech*'s weekly advice column. If you have questions for Auntie Matter, please submit them at tinyurl.com/AskAuntieMatter.*

This week, in an effort to be more authentic in her aunt role, Auntie Matter will give unsolicited advice for prefrosh about CPW.

First, Auntie will reiterate some of the typical advice about CPW — it is good advice, and prefrosh should pay attention.

You should sleep an adequate amount. You should take at least one shower. You should eat. And not only that, but you should eat vegetables. You should visit dorms. You should talk with current students. You should remember that CPW is not necessarily representative of what everyday life at MIT is like.

With that aside, Auntie will give her own take on the the wise use of Campus Preview Weekend.

At CPW, it can be tempting to focus only on exploring the residential and extracurricular experience of MIT. Certainly, the academic events are not as lighthearted. However, you will spend the majority of your time at MIT on academics. You should think seriously about your academic career at MIT during CPW.

There are two sorts of current MIT students Auntie recommends you speak with about academics.

First, you should speak with upperclassmen who share your academic interests. Even without a specific major in mind, you probably have some idea of what you might study, and since the MIT experience varies widely by major, you should consult with people (ideally juniors and seniors) who can speak to what their majors are like. If you have no idea, you could talk to someone who had no idea when they were a freshman.

Second, you should try to find an MIT student whose high school experience was similar to yours. People say MIT is hard and unlike high school. These things are true. However, your high school experience will affect your preparedness for and expectations about MIT academics. Speaking to someone who shares your background will give you important information about what academics at MIT will be like for you.

As the last point on academics, Auntie will note that freshman learning communities are a wonderful resource for you to explore.

Now, Auntie will turn to her other major point of CPW advice: the importance of self-reflection.

In the midst of all the liquid nitrogen ice cream, puzzle hunts, and lock-picking, you should make sure to take time for self-reflection. Use the weekend and its aftermath to think intentionally about what you want from your college experience and how you could get those things (or not) at MIT.

Think about your high school experiences. What have you enjoyed about the communities you participated in? If there have been struggles in your high school career, think about how you can prepare to either face or avoid those same problems at MIT. If an aspect of your high school experience was crucial to your success, determine if that same support or opportunity is available at MIT.

Thinking about what you like and dislike about your home could give clues about what kind of dorm you should seek. Different dorms offer different lifestyles — what are you comfortable with in your living environment? What community norms would make you feel at home?

Think about the expectations you have for college. What kind of support are you looking for? What environment do you learn best in? When you talk to current students about academics, see if the academic environment they describe sounds like one you would succeed in.

Imagine yourself as a college student — what are you like? Are you involved in student government? Are you the editor-in-chief of the campus newspaper? Are you a devoted physicist who studies comparative religion on the side? Are you a reclusive mathematician who loves to bake? Do you go to every frat party, or do you go to sleep at 9 p.m. every Friday night? Do you spend your free time working on your biochemistry UROP? Do you like to volunteer? Do you like to teach?

Can you do these things at MIT? Can you do them in the way you want to do them?

Auntie hopes that everyone can use CPW as an opportunity to learn more about MIT, even those students who have already com-MITted. Good luck, take care of yourselves, and have a fun and productive weekend!

Campus Life

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

# Devoted to Disney

## Meet Therese, a freshman with many creative outlets

**Therese Mills**

**Class of 2021**

**Declaring 18-C (Mathematics with Computer Science); possible minor in Comparative Media Studies (CMS)**

**Baker House**

**From New Jersey, to Manhattan, and now Orlando**

**Pi Phi (Greek Life), Varsity Fencing Team (Sabre), UA Innovation and UA Tech Committees, Major Disney Enthusiast**

**By Tafsia Shikdar**
*STAF WRITER*

*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*

**What is the reasoning behind your choice of studies?**

I've always loved math. I remember being in my second grade math class and thinking, "This is it. I want to do this forever." However, I wanted a more creative side to my studies as well. Initially I wanted to be an applied math major, but then I found out it included writing a lot of math papers and doing research. I think the computer science component of 18-C as well as possibly CMS classes allows me to express my creativity and opens more doors into industry. Over IAP I worked with the Media Lab on a workshop envisioning the New England Aquarium, and I really liked the design aspect of that.

**Why did you join Pi Phi?**

Coming from an all-girls Catholic high school, I'm used to being in a strong female community, and still wanted an aspect of that in my life here. I actually wasn't sure about joining a sorority, but my brother, who is in a fraternity at UPenn encouraged me to do it. I chose Pi Phi because I identified with their mission, since Pi Phi's philanthropy is focused on education. In my high school, we would have projects focused on spreading education, such as fundraising to build schools in impoverished areas — our last project was in Zambia. With Pi Phi, on Mondays and Thursdays, I go to a grade school in Boston and work with kids in kindergarten and first grade. We try to combine learning with having fun, and this semester we're focusing on "construction" via lego and marshmallow bridges. I'll be moving into Pi Phi next year.

**How was your experience on the fencing team this year?**

I loved it — I've only fenced on my own, at a club, since my high school didn't have a team, but here I really love having a community. Our season just ended, but we got to fence a lot of good schools, like Harvard and Columbia. This year our furthest tournament was a two-hour drive, but once every four years, the team flies out to Duke.

I love the feeling I get when I fence (I do sabre) — it's calming in a way, but it definitely takes a lot more strategy and thinking than most people perceive. It's been called physical chess because you always have to be aware of every move made.

**What else do you like to do in your free time?**

This might sound a bit weird, but another major part of my life is Disney — listening to Disney music and watching the movies. I really love that we moved to Orlando when my mom got a job at Disney! I have an annual pass for Walt Disney World, so when I go back home, I can go whenever I want. It's my relaxing thing — Disney inspires me with their creativity and technology. I really enjoyed talking to a Disney animator that visited MIT about his work. Animation is definitely another creative field I'm considering!

**How was settling into MIT as a freshman? Any surprises?**

I was really surprised at the collaborative culture of MIT, considering how insanely competitive it was to get in. Everyone is really supportive of everyone else — I love it! Doing the math FPOP in the beginning of the year was great because I found other people who were super into math too, and I've made a lot of friends at Baker and from fencing. The thing I found the hardest this year was finding the balance between the amount of things you should be doing, and the sheer amount of things you *could* be doing!

CHARLES LAZARO

**Therese Mills '21 is a sabre fencer** for MIT's varsity fencing team.

Also, I really like Boston. I love cities so much — I went to high school in Philadelphia, and everything I've done has been in a major city. To me, Boston is a really good combination of Philly and New York, since New York is very urban and modern, while I thought Philly was very old and historical, focused on preserving everything that came before.

**Would you rather be a tree or have to live in a tree?**

Live in a tree...I don't know why that was such an immediate answer! It might be due to the fact that my UA committee is focusing on social space projects across campus right now, so any ideas about turning cool places into living spaces inspire me.

**Would you rather have to go to the bathroom in a giant litter box in your house, or anywhere you want, but outside?**

In a litter box, because I don't want to go outside.

**What one thing would you want to have with you on a desert island?**

I just got a lightsaber that's really cool...

**What one value do you prize above all others?**

Family, for sure.

**DID YOUR MIT ESSAYS GET YOU IN?**

The Tech is collecting successful application essays (hint: yours!).
Email your pieces to cl@tech.mit.edu!

# Welcome to CPW, Class of 2022!

## *The Tech* interviews prefrosh about their hobbies and MIT's culture

**By Patricia Gao**
*CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR*

*Campus Preview Weekend is upon us, bringing more than a thousand prefrosh and featuring hundreds of unique events, from "Exponential Salsa" to "Crazy Cat Lady Make-a-thon" to "Crepes of Wrath."*

*In the midst of all the excitement,* The Tech *managed to pull a few prefrosh aside to ask them the following questions:*

*What is one thing you think is cool, awesome, or exciting about MIT?*

*What is something cool about you?*

**Julia Park, California**

"The students here are really friendly and experimental and open to new things, whether it's a new idea or a new experiment or new people like me! I've been helped around a lot when I was lost here. I'm finding a lot of MIT students [are] really helpful."

"I love to lip-sync to Broadway musicals, and [I] play in the orchestra pit when I can."

**Claire Lessler, New York**

"I like the culture. Some of the other schools I've visited were a lot more snobby, but MIT is more down-to-earth. It's unabashedly nerdy. This place is the epitome of welcoming to nerdy culture. Part of the reason I applied was because I visited here and people kept talking about the hacking thing. It's very cool."

"I draw cartoons for fun!"

**Yu Jing Chen, Illinois**

"Student culture! The level of expression I've seen here surpasses every other college I've been to. We get to smash stuff and dye our hair! The walls of EC and Simmons and sidewalks … chalked everywhere! The student expression is really awesome."

"I carry my frisbee like everywhere (in the summer)."

**Dalila Valdes, Florida**

"Everybody comes here because we have good academics. I really like the research aspect of it. Everything that is new comes from MIT in some way. I really like the atmosphere it presents. There's people from everywhere and I really like that!"

"I like doing differential equations for fun."

**Julia Moseyko, California**

"I love the perpetual fun that you guys have. It's just like a sphere of happiness. I like the fact that hard work and academics are kind of a given, so everyone is free to focus on the wonderful aspects of the creativity and that's so cool."

"I do Latin ballroom dancing."

**Noah Brooks, Pennsylvania**

"The focus on math and science! That's kind of been my main thing in school my whole life."

"I like to sit in my basement."

**Cesar Duran, Texas**

"The students are so motivated to do their best in whatever they do, whether it be computer science or biotech."

"Almost every year I've been to a different school — this is the first year I haven't been. I've been able to see all kinds of cultures and all kinds of environments."

# The special Simmons sport

## A short biography of scootah hockey

**By Alexis Oriole**

March Madness is over. The Super Bowl is a distant memory. Make way for the next big sporting event of the year: the Scootah Hockey World Championships! In Simmons Hall, there are few events more talked-about than Scootah Hockey. Each Spring, residents host a tournament to determine who will be crowned the World Champions of Scootah Hockey for that year. The tournament consists of four days of round-robin play, followed by one day of bracket play that determines the winner. This year, the round-robin took place from April 2 to April 5, with the playoffs on Sunday, April 8.

What actually *is* Scootah Hockey, you ask? It is a competitive 3-on-3 game in which players scoot around on plastic scooters (think elementary school gym class) and use plastic sticks to try to hit a puck into a net. Players *must* stay on their scooters at all times. The game is played in the Simmons dining hall: after it closes for the night, it transforms into SimDin Arena, the most prestigious Scootah Hockey arena in the world. The entire Scootah Hockey tournament is overseen by FISHSTICK, or the Federation D'Internationale du Scootah Hockey and Sports That Inquire Cool Kids.

As a bit of background, Scootah Hockey was developed in Simmons in 2014 by two men who were both named Tim — one a resident, one a GRT. In 2015, FISHSTICK was formed as a way to ensure that Scootah Hockey would continue to live on in Simmons. Traditionally, FISHSTICK consists of one or two student commissioners and a GRT commissioner, along with several student volunteers who help with set up, clean up, and refereeing. The commissioners try to involve as many freshmen and other young players as possible in order to keep the traditions of Scootah Hockey alive.

In 2017, FISHSTICK acquired ESHPN, or Every Scootah Hockey Person's Network, to provide nightly highlights and statistics. ESHPN sends out an email after every night of round-robin play, recapping the final score of each game as well as any notable plays or highlights. The nightly emails also include a section called Next Gen Stats. Next Gen Stats have included metrics such as save percentages, face-off win rates, and percentages of players wearing long pants. This year, ESHPN also sent out a special end-of-season report, providing power rankings and individualized performance reports for each section, which included a team-specific heat map that demonstrated the locations they took shots from.

In 2018, the commissioners of FISHSTICK created the SHKYCAM, or the Scootah Hockey Kable Y'nabled Camera Action Machine, in order to record all of the action from above the arena. Unfortunately, technical difficulties prevented the operation of the SHKYCAM for this year, but FISHSTICK anticipates it being ready for the 2019 season. Despite the SHKYCAM malfunction, ESHPN still presented a live stream from a stationary camera, which garnered viewers from Boston, Seattle, Michigan, California, and even Canada!

In the five years that Scootah Hockey has been run in Simmons, only three different teams have taken home the title of world champions. In 2014, C Tower became the first-ever Scootah Hockey world champions. 7ABC clinched the title in 2015, followed by back-to-back championship wins by B Tower (colloquially known as "B Towah") in 2016 and 2017. In 2018, C Tower managed to finally take back the reins to become the current Scootah Hockey world champions.

Scootah Hockey is important for a host of reasons. Primarily, it is a way to bring the residents of Simmons Hall together. The teams are GRT sections (which are the analogy of "floors" in other dorms, but the architecture of Simmons makes it so that some floors are split into different sections, and some are combined into one), so every part of the building is represented. Each section has their own unique flag that gets hung up in SimDin Arena in the weeks leading up to the tournament, contributing to the sense of pride that each student has in their team. In an exclusive 2017 interview, then-freshman (now FISHSTICK co-commissioner) Nicolas Arons stated about his section that "after playing [Scootah Hockey], I really feel like we got closer as a section." Simmons generally does not have strong floor culture, so bonding with section-mates is an especially unique part of Scootah Hockey.

NATHAN LIANG—THE TECH

**The referee readies the puck** at the Simmons Hall scooter hockey tournament, a Simmons tradition that started four years ago.

During the Scootah Hockey playoffs, FISHSTICK always purchases copious amounts of free food, including pizza, fruit, and Red Bull. In 2016, a custom Snapchat filter was introduced during the week of the tournament. The filter featured the face of last year's FISHSTICK commissioner Evan Denmark along with the text "ON YOUR SCOOTER!" The past two seasons have also seen exhibition games featuring special teams such as the Bon Appetit dining hall staff and the East Campus all-star team. This year, Bon Appetit also provided a spread of candy and snacks right outside SimDin Arena — they even gave away novelty items like pencils and inflatable hockey sticks. These special treats and surprises give every Simmons resident a reason to come down even for the tournament, if they don't want to play in the games.

To many residents, Scootah Hockey embodies Simmons culture. In general, Simmons does not have one cohesive, easily-defined culture, but one of the most dominant aspects of Simmons is a sense of youth and playfulness. Most residents enjoy having fun doing ridiculous things, and Scootah Hockey provides them with something to get overly excited about. Residents use Scootah Hockey as a reason to dress up in crazy costumes (including tutus, animal masks, and body paint), to lose their voices screaming every night, and to stay up until the sunrise calculating statistics for the teams.

Scootah Hockey is more than a sport, and more than a fun study break. It truly is a cultural phenomenon unique to Simmons Hall. Next time you run into a Simmons resident, be sure to ask them about their beloved game.

*Alexis Oriole is ESHPN head reporter and statistician and 2017 Scootah Hockey World Champion.*

# Tell us a story

## On MIT Mock Trial

**By Lia Hsu-Rodriguez**

*Tell us a story.*

I don't remember much about trying out for MIT Mock Trial. I'm sure there was more to the audition, but the part I remember most clearly is being asked this: *"Tell us a two-minute story."* At the time, I didn't know why this skill was important enough to request, but now, at the end of our competition season, I think I'm starting understand.

Ultimately, a Mock Trial round comes down to being able to tell the best story. Two competing teams present both sides of a fake court case in front of judges — whether you win or not depends on which witnesses can captivate an audience and convincingly convey their points and which attorneys can best present their facts and adapt the case to fit their needs. After all, the prosecution will always have a very different story than the defense, with each side claiming the other is telling the wrong story.

As I write this, I'm still recovering from this weekend's competition and, boy, was this season a rollercoaster. Over the course of the season, members of our team won a total of 10 Outstanding Attorney and Witness Awards. MIT Mock Trial also earned our first official bid to the National Championship Qualifier, even though this is only our third year of existence. Although we're not going to nationals this year, this bid is proof that we're able to hold our own against the nation's top teams. Really, it can only go up from here.

At our most recent competition, we were also recognized for something that is, in a way, even more important than qualifying for nationals: the sportsmanship award for "civility, justice, and fair play." The other teams in our tournaments (about two dozen) voted for MIT — not once, but *twice*.

This should give you an idea of how amazing the people of MIT Mock Trial really are. Through marathon practices, long hotel stays, and *My Cousin Vinny* showings, I got to spend a lot of time with my teammates outside of the courtroom and it was obvious: These people are incredible. They're some of the most crazy, dedicated, passionate storytellers I have ever met.

Every one of us does about a million things outside of Mock Trial, yet we still find time to practice for hours a week to prance around a courtroom. Our coaches, despite being real life adults juggling law school and *actual careers in law*, find time to trek all the way out to MIT every week because they love doing Mock Trial as much as we do.

My Mock Trial story started five years ago (this year is my first at a collegiate level) and I'm not even close to stopping. You might wonder why, because, like the majority of people on our team, I don't want to go to law school. The members of MIT Mock Trial have many different paths in front of us — medical school, PhD programs, technical fields — and yet we all do and love Mock Trial.

I do Mock Trial because of the adrenaline rush that comes with doing a cross examination and the thrill of taking on an eyewitness's persona. I do Mock Trial because it teaches me how to hold myself in front of an audience, how to think on my feet, and how to be a good storyteller. Sure, my teammates might have different reasons, but I know they'll agree with me on this: At the end of the day, you realize that you do Mock Trial and keep doing Mock Trial because *it's what you love doing*.

So, if any of this makes you think that this crazy thing could be fun, come join us. Send an email to mitmocktrial@gmail.com or stop by and chat with our team at Activities Midway in the fall. We'd love to have you, so come try out. Tell us a story.

RKB PRESENTS MIT

Campus Preview Weekend?????

More like
C - improv
P - comedy
W - show

friday april 13th, 8 pm
3-270
*FREE* *FREE*

THE TECH

**Say hello!**
**Come visit us!**

WE HAVE AWESOME EVENTS TOO!

**Like what you see?**

We're *The Tech*, MIT's only newspaper, and oldest student group. Drop by our office in **W20-483** to chat and see our departments at work, or email us at *join@tech.mit.edu*.

**How do you get here?**

Just go to the student center (W20), and head up to the 4th floor. Follow the signs down the hall, and when you see our banner, you're here!

**Friday, April 13**

**Photography Workshop**
4:00 - 5:00 PM

**Dinner + Games**
6:00 - 8:00 PM

**Saturday, April 14**

**Activities Midway**
1:00 - 3:00 PM
*Check out our booth!*

**Tea + Tie-Dye**
3:00 - 6:00 PM

**Comic Drawing Session**
3:00 - 6:00 PM

**Netflix and Chill-a-thon**
7:30 PM - 1:00 AM

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NOW the THIRD SUN... ...SUMMER

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...SOFTWARE - HARDWARE

# Sunday April 15th

- Buy Sell Swap - 9 AM to 2 PM

**Albany and Main Streets, Cambridge**

TAILGATE ROOM FOR OVER 400 SELLERS

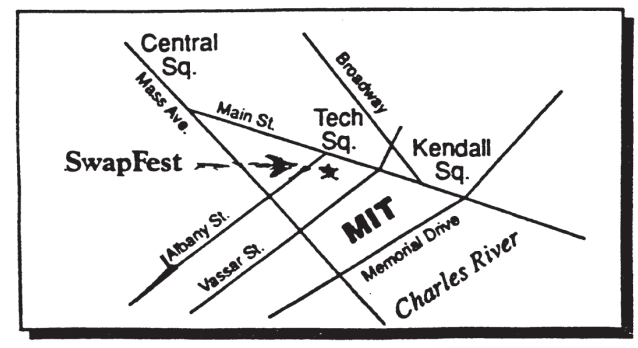
*Rain or Shine — Garage Available*

BUYERS $6

**FREE for MIT & Harvard STUDENTS with ID**

SELLERS $20

per space includes 1 admission




FREE!
Buyers Parking
VENDORS
from all of New England

*Come early for BEST BARGAINS*

Sponsored by: W1MX, the MIT Electronics Research Society, W1XM/R

SINGER WANTED — $500.00 for two songs on Saturday, June 30th at a Mount Auburn Cemetery service for my Mom. Male or Female with a beautiful voice, with or without acoustic instrument. Would love 'Sleep Song' from My Secret Garden as one of the songs, if possible. Please contact Susan at susang919@gmail.com to set up a call for more details.

"psst...hey MIT pre-frosh!"

Compete in Environmental Solutions Initiative's first ever scavenger hunt: **#CPWHunt**.

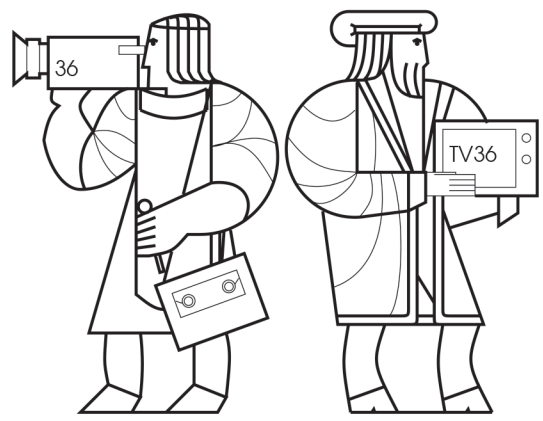
**environmentalsolutions.mit.edu/cpwhunt**

Play to win exciting prizes including a solar powered phone charger, S'well bottles & more! Good luck!

**#CPWHunt**

# IHTFP FILM HACKATHON

April 28th-29th




Spend a weekend with us creating your own 2 minute video!

A grand prize will be awarded, along with others including Best Mobile-Only Film!

## REGISTER A TEAM: SCTV.MIT.EDU

For more information, please email ihtfp-hackathon@mit.edu
Sponsored by CMSW and the Chris Pomiecko Memorial Fund


### Solution to Campus
*from page 7*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| 1 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| 3 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| 5 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 4 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 6 |
| 6 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 8 |
| 2 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 7 |
| 8 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 5 |

### Solution to Weekend
*from page 7*

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 5 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 6 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 1 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 5 |

### Solution to Sixers
*from page 8*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 4 |
| 7 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| 4 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| 3 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 6 |
| 2 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 8 |
| 6 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 9 |
| 1 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 5 |
| 9 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 1 |
| 5 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 |

### Solution to Playoffs
*from page 8*

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| 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 5 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 |

### Solution to Crossword
*from page 7*

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | E | C | A | L | ■ | P | A | R | T | ■ | G | U | S | T |
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| C | I | V | I | C | P | R | I | D | E | ■ | B | T | U | S |
| O | N | E | S | T | E | P | ■ | S | K | I | L | I | F | T |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | U | C | L | A | ■ | ■ | B | E | E | F | Y | ■ |
| S | A | N | E | R | ■ | E | L | A | T | E | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| E | R | O | D | E | S | ■ | B | R | A | T | P | A | C | K |
| L | E | I | A | ■ | P | L | U | T | O | ■ | A | C | A | I |
| F | A | R | M | T | E | A | M | ■ | S | P | L | I | N | T |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | E | D | G | E | S | ■ | O | L | D | I | E | ■ |
| F | E | D | E | X | ■ | ■ | N | E | E | R | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| A | Q | U | A | T | I | C | ■ | R | L | S | T | I | N | E |
| R | U | N | S | ■ | H | O | M | E | S | C | H | O | O | L |
| S | I | N | E | ■ | O | P | E | N | ■ | H | I | N | D | I |
| I | P | O | D | ■ | P | E | T | E | ■ | E | S | S | E | S |

# MIT DAY OF ACTION
# APRIL 17, 2018
## STATA CENTER 10AM-8PM
## DROP IN ANY TIME
## HTTP://DAYOFACTION.MIT.EDU #MITDAYOFACTION

| Time / Group | | 32-124 | 32-144 | 32-141 | 32-155 | 32-123 | [as listed] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10:00 AM | 1 | Everyday Action: Solidarity Investment | Transforming Education Across the Globe: How MIT Open Learning is Improving Access and Quality of Education | Experiences from prison: Incarceration, education, and rehabilitation | Saudi Arabia, the War on Yemen, and the Responsibility of MIT | Language, Bias, and Power | |
| 10:30 AM | | | | | | | |
| 11:00 AM | 2 | Small Scale Heroism: Using Identity, Culture, & Privilege to Set the Tone for Your Community | Reimagine Education Through Design Thinking | Open Access: How you can help make the world's scholarly works available to all | Understanding and Resisting the Attack on Immigrants | Confidence at the Ballot Box: Russian Bots, Midterm Elections and Cybersecurity | **[Stata Street]** Community organization open house |
| 11:30 AM | | | | | | | |
| 12:00 PM | | | | Who Are We Talking to? The Humanities, the Public, and the Streets | | | |
| 12:30 PM | | | | | | | **[Stata Street]** Lunch |
| 1:00 PM | 3 | How Not To Be Evil: Tech Workers Against Racism, Sexism, and Surveillance | White Guilt: Moving beyond the yard sign | Objective science? Racist science? Sexist science? | Policy Change in Your Backyard: Access to Scientific Data to be a Climate Change Advocate in Your Community | Black Panther: Call for Liberation or Repressive Desublimation? | |
| 1:30 PM | | | | | | | |
| 2:00 PM | | Demystifying the MIT Corporation | | | | | |
| 2:30 PM | 4 | Using Restorative Practices: A community centered dialogue to addressing rape culture on campus | | Corrupting the Public: Philosophy for the People | Mitigating technological risk, from nuclear to AI | Perils for Democracy | **[34-101]** The History (and Present State) of Student Activism at MIT |
| 3:00 PM | | | | | | | |
| 3:30 PM | | | | | | | |
| 4:00 PM | 5 | The Boston-area Affordability & Displacement Crisis: Case Studies in Local Organizing | If You Care About Truth, Fight for Justice: Universities and the Communities They Interact With | Remote Activism in Electoral Politics Workshop with Sister District Project & Indivisible Somerville | Black Lives Matter in Boston | The Science of Fake News | |
| 4:30 PM | | | | | | | |
| 5:00 PM | | | | | | | **[Stata Street]** Dinner |
| 5:30 PM | 6 | Science Advocacy 101: From interest to action | Organizing for Radical Inclusion: Stories From Hackathons | Asmarina: A film screening and discussion about Race, Immigration, Citizenship and the Habesha Community in Milan | Public Banking: Do You Know What Your Money Is Doing Today? | The Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women: a screening of the documentary STEP | |
| 6:00 PM | | | | | | | |
| 6:30 PM | | Reproductive Access and Abortion Stigma | | | Coming Out Faithful: stories from LGBTQ religious leaders | | |
| 7:00 PM | | | | | | | |
| 7:30 PM | | | | | | | |